

10-1-1960

Service in Many Fields

Jacob Armstrong Swisher

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest>

Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Swisher, Jacob A. "Service in Many Fields." *The Palimpsest* 41 (1960), 459-466.
Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol41/iss10/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Service in Many Fields

Voluntary service is one of the cardinal principles of Kiwanis, and a prime factor in its success. Examples of such service are numerous and widespread, and may be found in any community where the spirit of Kiwanis prevails. Some of these services are, of necessity, in the nature of fund-raising projects. Always, however, the funds so raised are devoted to the alleviation of social-economic conditions which are of community-wide interest.

At a Kiwanis district convention in Sioux City in 1922, District Governor Joe Long of Des Moines commented: "Whenever we get to the place where business men endeavor to give as much as they can for a dollar, instead of seeing how many dollars they can accumulate, we will have solved the social-economic problem to a large extent."

Exemplifying the spirit of giving and building, in its fund-raising campaigns, Kiwanis seeks to give of goods, or service, or pleasure, as much as it can for the money that it receives, and then it gives the money to charity for the aid of the needy or for the building of character. An outstanding example of a cooperative fund-raising project for

community betterment is found in the city of Des Moines.

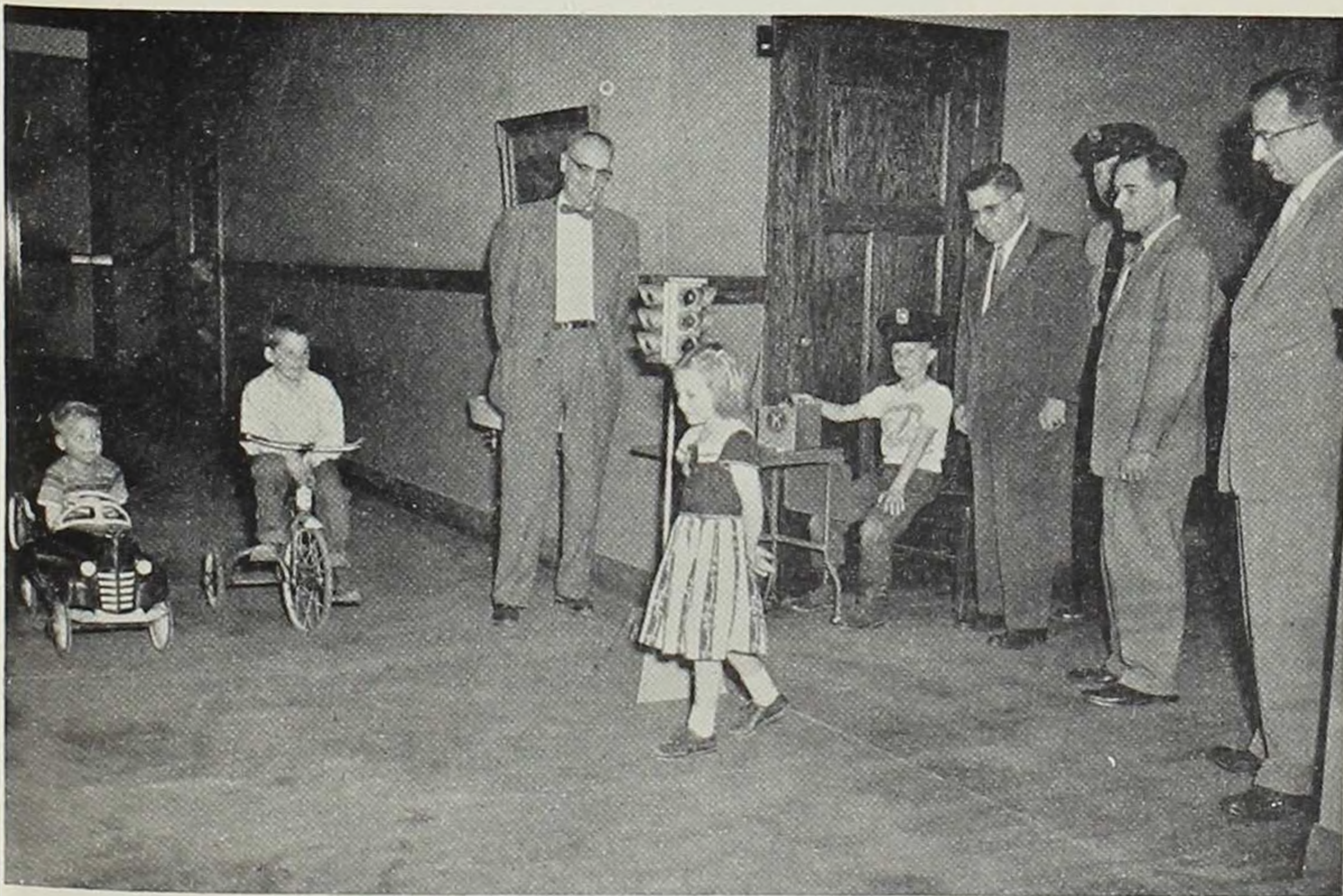
Thirteen years ago, under the guidance and inspiration of Wendell Brown — not a Kiwanian, but nevertheless a community builder — the Downtown Des Moines Kiwanis Club realized a widespread need of funds to aid cerebral palsy patients. Officers and members of the club were aware, too, that for effective community service they needed a commanding challenge — a goal toward which to work. Kiwanis would assume the leadership — supply the organizing personnel, and become the driving force in the campaign for funds for the cerebral palsied.

This proved to be a vision with a tremendous potential. Out of it has grown the Kiwanis Annual Cerebral Palsy Football contests. Each year eight high schools in the Des Moines metropolitan area join together early in September to "Fight the Battle of the Hatfields and the McCoys." With four football teams on either side, and each team playing for one quarter, they present a unique display of athletic ability. Eight teams, eight bands, eight student bodies, and the public, jam the Drake University stadium for this spectacular occasion.

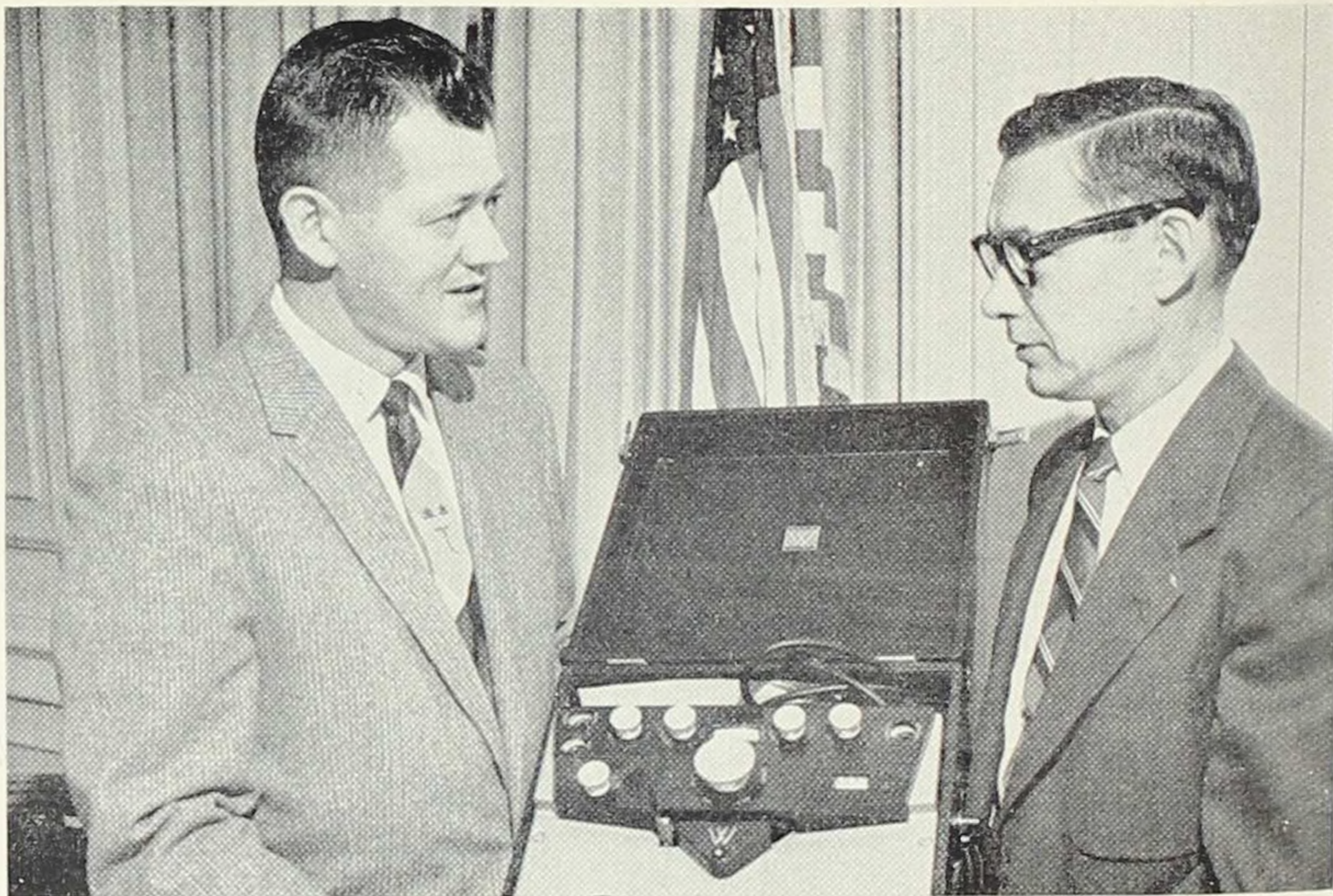
This is truly a "Perfect Charity Project." Everyone must have a ticket — the players, the band members, the officials, the policemen, the firemen, the press and radio. No one gets in free. When



Evansdale Kiwanis Club is out to win the Inter-Club Annual Traveling Trophy



Ames Club seeks to serve youth by teaching Tiny Tots to observe and obey traffic signals



Marshalltown Club presents valuable equipment to Marshall County School
for Retarded Children



Spencer Kiwanis Quartet provides entertainment for the Melvin Charter Night Party

IOWA KIWANIANs — DISTRICT GOVERNORS

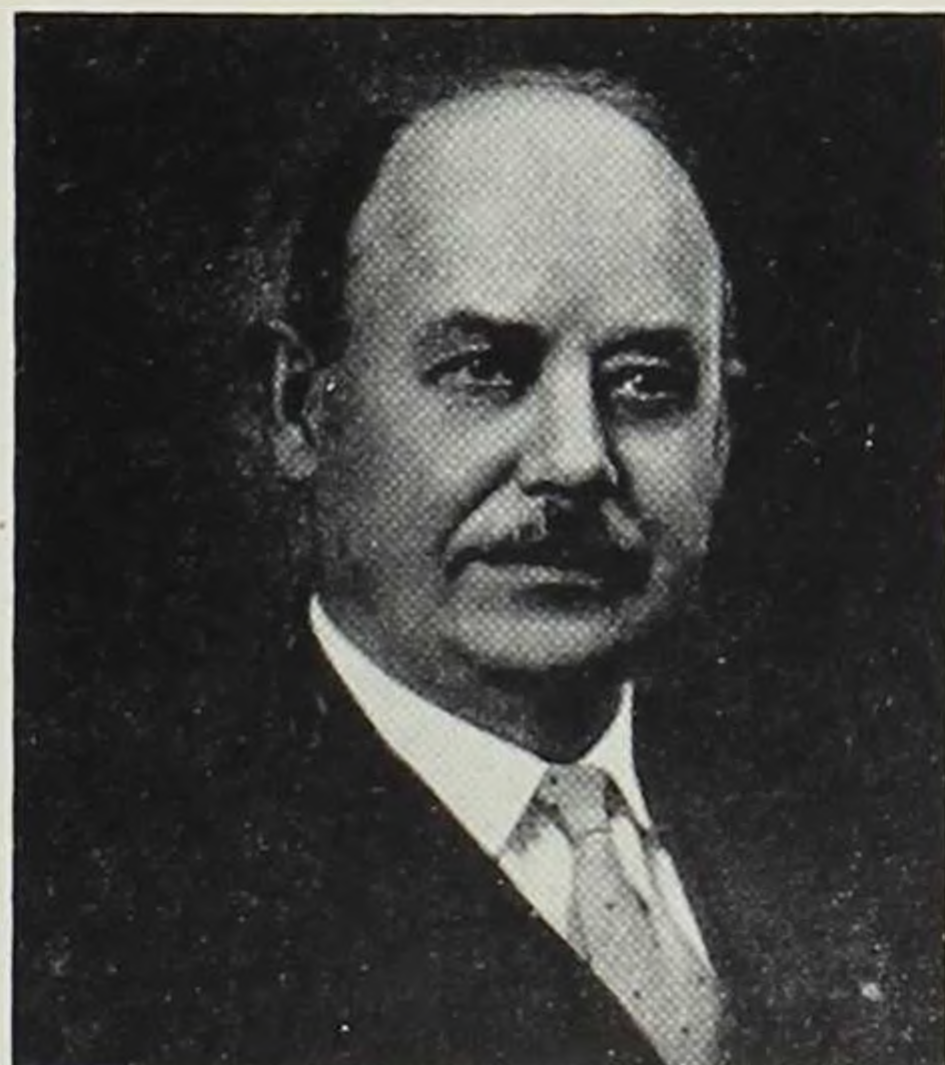
Illinois-Eastern Iowa District



NICHOLAS LE GRAND
Davenport (1926)



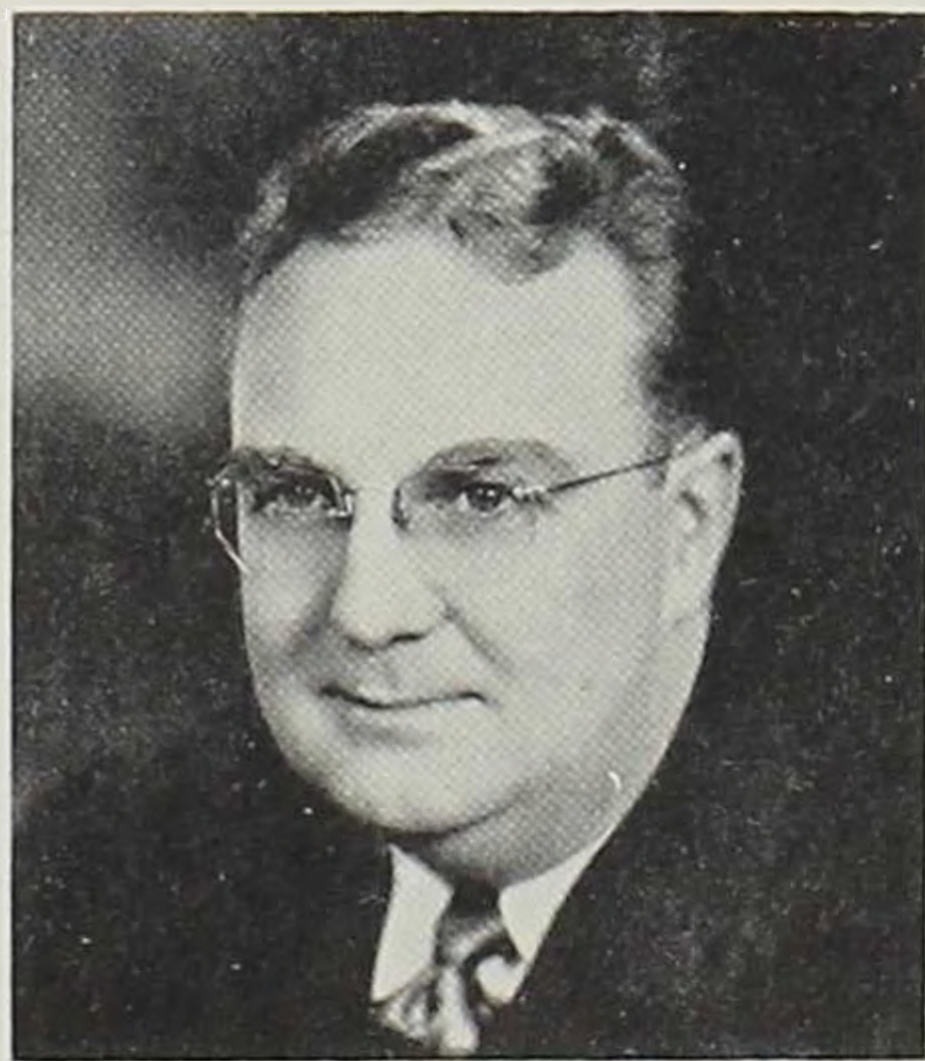
RICHARD N. HOWES, SR.
Clinton (1929)



GEORGE H. ALFS
Burlington (1934)

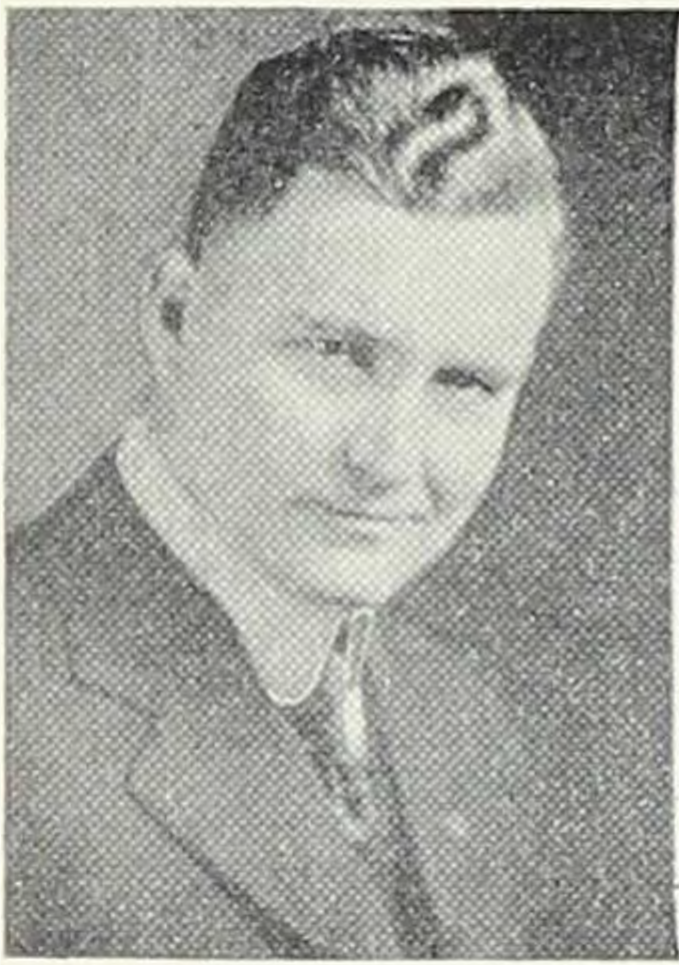


JAMES D. CARPENTER
Dubuque (1948)



LLEWELLYN FAY
Clinton (1954)

KIWANIAN DISTRICT GOVERNORS



JOSEPH L. LONG
Des Moines (1921-22)



DR. SYDNEY H. SMITH
Council Bluffs (1924)



STERLING ALEXANDER
Webster City (1926)



HENRY K. PETERSON
Council Bluffs (1928)



HERMAN M. KNUDSON
Mason City (1930)



CLARK A. BEEMS
Cedar Rapids (1932)



DR. W. E. WOLCOTT
Des Moines (1934)



JOHN S. NOLLEN
Grinnell (1936)



WILLIAM C. JARNAGIN
Storm Lake (1938)



FRANCIS W. TOMASEK
Grinnell (1940)



DUANE E. DEWEL
Algona (1942)

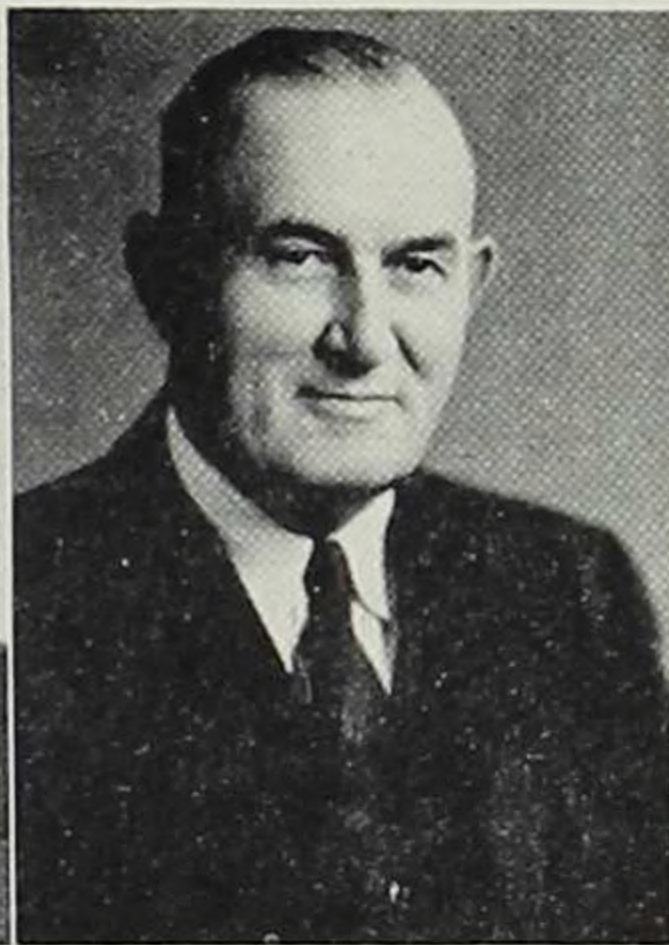
NEBRASKA-IOWA DISTRICT



PAUL G. JAMES
Des Moines (1944)



ERNEST H. MATTHIAS
Waterloo (1946)



E. L. (VERN) ALLPHIN
Council Bluffs (1947)



BERNARD T. CAINE
Sioux City (1949)



RAY L. SHORT
Cedar Rapids (1950)



H. PIERCE WITMER
Des Moines (1952)



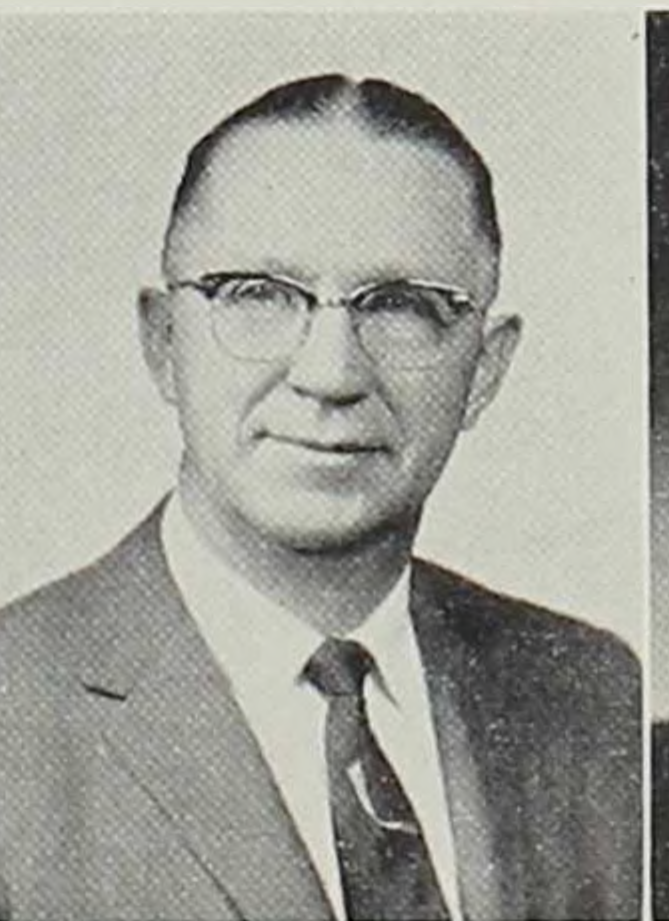
WES H. BARTLETT
Algona (1953)



WILBUR C. MILLER
Polk City (1955)



KERMIT K. DOOLITTLE
Webster City (1956)



LEE MILLER
Cherokee (1958)



DONALD G. ISETT
Cedar Rapids (1959)



Boone Club sponsors a party for High School Seniors



President Norman C. Meier presents gavel to President-elect Oscar Broyer.
 Standing is Lt. Gov. J. A. Swisher.
 Sitting is Past Lt. Gov. Edward S. Rose.



The Grinnell Club has an active, aggressive Key [Youth] Club of which it may well be proud



The Webster City Kiwanis Club installs new officers



At Nora Springs District Governor Harry Spencer presents the new charter to Club President E. C. Moody



Gowrie Club Members interested in Athletics, paint buildings at the Athletic Field

the game is over, 100% of the income goes into the Cerebral Palsy Fund. Such expenses as are incurred for insurance and transportation of teams and bands are underwritten by the Kiwanis club and its members. During the past thirteen years more than a quarter of a million dollars has been raised for the benefit of the cerebral palsied. Thus it is that Kiwanis gives "primacy to human needs," and meaning to its motto, "We Build."

This type of cooperative program so effectively carried out in Iowa's capital city is in effect duplicated again and again — on a smaller scale — for the advancement of community interests in many of the 80 cities in Iowa where Kiwanis is operating effectively.

It is to be noted, however, that many of the activities carried on by Kiwanis are not in the nature of fund-raising projects. Rather they are designed to raise the standard of community life without the expenditure of vast sums of money. Often these projects may be carried on in the smaller clubs with only a few persons involved. Or they may be community wide and of interest to all classes. An example of this type of activity may be found in Sac City — "The Home of Good Indians" — which, for 35 years, has had an annual "Kite Flying Tournament" that has now gained national recognition.

Any boy or girl under the age of 17 years, attending the Sac City schools or attending any

school located within a radius of eight miles of Sac City, may enter the contest. Kites must be made by the contestants. A purchased kite cannot be entered. It must also be mounted in the air by the contestant with the aid of one helper who must be under the age of 17 years. This is a Kiwanis-sponsored, youth-centered contest designed to develop skills and provide wholesome recreation and amusement for the participants. This exhibition of kites and skills has in recent years attracted large crowds from a wide area.

An interesting project of a historical and recreational nature was sponsored by the Kiwanis club at Shenandoah. When the early Mormons founded the little town of Manti in southwestern Iowa, about 1855, they were in the midst of a beautiful land. When the railroad came, a few years later, it passed through the present site of Shenandoah, but missed Manti by about three miles. Soon Manti merchants and residents began to move to Shenandoah. Some actually moved their buildings, and Manti became a deserted village — with only a log schoolhouse and a cemetery left as evidence of the former village.

Adjacent to this area there remained a tract of virgin timberland — a beautiful site for a park development. For several years Scout Troops used this area for overnight camping. But with the passing of the years this came to be visualized as something more than a casual overnight camping

site. Shenandoah Kiwanians saw here an opportunity to create an attractive community center for all types of recreation, and seeing the opportunity, they seized upon it. Soon they had spent an estimated 342 man hours, \$500 of club funds and \$550 of individual members' funds, to lay the foundation for the purchase of 32 acres of beautiful woodland. Then they formed a corporation — The Kiwanis-Manti Association — with plans to expend \$12,000 in the further development of this beautiful area.

Other examples of Kiwanis-sponsored recreational, cultural, or entertainment programs can be cited. In 1959-1960 the Pella Kiwanis Club sponsored its tenth annual travel and adventure lecture series, bringing to Pella a series of educational and entertaining programs by "top men in the travelog profession." This series included lectures and pictures of "Romania," "Scotland," "Holiday in Holland," "Mountain Holiday," "The Mighty Amazon," and "Portraits of the Pacific." The funds received from this series were pledged to playground activities, support of the Pella Community Hospital, and other activities, which would build a bigger and better Pella community.

The Webster City Kiwanis Club recently sponsored its twelfth annual "Swing and Talent Review" — a popular local talent exhibition with "fun for the whole family." Eleven amateur acts

competed for cash prizes. Among the popular features of the program were baton twirling, favorites played by the high school band, selections by the high school boys chorus, a display of chimes and hand bell playing, and the choralists singing favorites from "The Music Man." All profits from the entertainment went into the fund for underprivileged children.

In 1958 the Metropolitan Kiwanis Club of Cedar Rapids — then a relatively new club — sponsored two concerts by the United States Marine Band. More than 1600 people attended the matinee and 1800 came out for the evening concert. Thus a rich musical treat was enjoyed by many, and the fund for the benefit of underprivileged children was enriched to the extent of \$2,300.

Polk City — once the smallest town in Kiwanis International — came up with a capital idea. Members of the Kiwanis club recalled that more than twenty years ago people in and around Polk City (population 600) gathered once a year for an annual homecoming. It was a gala occasion enjoyed alike by old and young. But with the passing of the years and the pressure of modern times, homecoming traditions were forgotten and the annual celebration was abandoned.

Two years ago the Kiwanis club voted to revive the tradition. Committees were appointed and plans were under way. A whole steer was barbecued and served to 2500 people free, and a good

time was had by all. Comments from homecomers were so encouraging that club members began to think about another barbecue. "And while we're about it," suggested a club member, "why not make the homecoming barbecue a fund-raising project for youth work?"

This seemed to be a good idea and in due time plans were being made for a repeat performance. The second annual homecoming proved to be equally popular and in some respects more successful than the previous one, in that it gave the club a net profit of \$600. Wilbur Miller, 1960 chairman of the International Committee on Boys and Girls work, summed up the activity by saying, "It's hard for a small rural club to raise enough money for boys and girls work, unless they have a popular project like our barbecue."

Now and again it may be well for a Kiwanis club to take inventory of its assets, and the contributions it has made to community betterment. On the occasion of its fortieth anniversary, members of the Davenport Club made such an appraisal. They noted how, as good Kiwanians, they had "worked and played together, enriching their own personal lives through tighter bonds of personal friendships and enriching the community life through important community projects."

During these intervening years they had raised \$35,000 to purchase 180 acres of land for the Girl Scout camp. They had worked for both the Boy

Scout and Y-Camp swimming pool financing, They had managed a National Corn Husking Contest which had brought 100,000 people to Davenport, and sponsored a highly successful Model Farm which was visited by 10,000 people. Other activities included the sponsoring of a Little League Baseball Team, serving as Big Brother Parolees for delinquent boys, and organizing the Davenport Benevolent Fund to help needy boys and girls become useful citizens.

While the Davenport Club was making a commendable record for itself in community service, individual members were playing an important role as civic leaders. Club membership had supplied (1) Kiwanis District Governor, (5) Lieutenant Governors, (7) United Fund presidents, (4) Boy Scout Area Council presidents, (5) Red Cross presidents, (3) Library Board presidents, (4) YMCA presidents, (2) mayors, (1) sheriff, (3) postmasters, and (3) Commanders of Davenport American Legion Post.

Noting with interest this commendable record of the past, members of the club, with a forward look, declared that they are now more interested in the prospects, the hopes and aspirations of building a better club and a better community in the years that lie ahead.